

continually inspired by the number of families in Nebraska who have selflessly and lovingly opened their hearts to children without a permanent place to call home. Selecting just one family is always a difficult task, but this year Jay and Mary Saunders of Bellevue stood out from the others. I am pleased to announce Jay and Mary Saunders of Bellevue as 2014 "Angels in Adoption."

The Saunders have one biological son and have adopted six children: Nick, Ian, Nathan, Haylee, Mara, Christian, and Kevin. Nick, the eldest, is their biological child and born with special needs. Providing his specialized care moved the Saunders to open their home and hearts to adopting other children with disabilities.

Mary always knew she was meant to adopt and have a big family. When Nick was 4, 2-year-old Ian entered their lives. He suffered from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, ADHD. But the moment they laid eyes on Ian, the Saunders knew he was meant to be part of their growing family.

Mara was adopted soon afterward. When she came to the Saunders through a private adoption, she required special needs that resulted from abuse she previously suffered. Today, Mary calls Mara her "lifes work" and "little guru."

It wasn't long before siblings Nathan, Haylee, Christian and Kevin were adopted together in March 2013, and were welcomed into the Saunders' growing family.

Throughout the past 15 years, the Saunders have worked to integrate immediate and extended families. This includes the birth families of some of the children. Mary often tells her children you can never have too many people "loving you."

Through hard work, compassion and a lot of love, Nick continues to defy his learning disabilities—excelling in high school and planning to enroll in college. Ian no longer has attachment issues or suffers from ADHD. Mara has learned to deal with her emotions without medication. Nathan recently won a best athlete award for the Omaha-area. Haylee and Christian's education has improved leaps and bounds since becoming part of the Saunders family. The youngest, Kevin, continues to relish in the footsteps of his older siblings. Together, the seven children continue to thrive and grow, thanks to Mary and Jay.

Each of the Saunders has been an inspiration to me. It is my hope and theirs that their family will serve as an inspiration to others who may be interested in pursuing foster care and adoption.

I want to again thank Mary and Jay for their work to improve the lives of their children and congratulate them once again on being selected as 2014 Angels in Adoption.●

RECOGNIZING THE CANYON LAKE ALL STARS

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the coaches and players of the Canyon Lake All-Stars of Rapid City, SD. The Canyon Lake All-Stars represented the Midwest Region in this year's Little League World Series.

It was only the third time in the 75-year history of the Little League World Series that a team from South Dakota made it to the tournament. This year's team joins the 2008 Canyon Lake All-Stars and the 2011 Harney All-Stars in representing South Dakota as the Midwest Region champions and becomes the first South Dakota team to win a Little League World Series game.

I wish to congratulate and recognize the hard-work of the 2014 Canyon Lake All-Stars. They represented South Dakota well in the national spotlight. Players on the team are Jake Kostenbauer, Logan Miller, Bridger Nesbit, Daniel Vigoren, Colton Hartford, Cooper Voorhees, Adam Salter, True Synhorst, Mason Litz, Matthew Hegre, Blake Weaver, and Dylan Richey. The manager is Rich Hegre, and assistant coaches are Steve Richey and Scott Spencer. Their efforts produced lasting memories and the entire state of South Dakota is proud of their accomplishments.●

RECOGNIZING LINDA LEA VIKEN

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a South Dakota attorney who has distinguished herself on the local, State, and national level. Linda Lea Viken has been a successful practicing attorney in South Dakota since 1978. She was recently presented with the Trial Lawyer of the Year Award by the South Dakota Trial Lawyers Association during the association's annual meeting.

Specializing in family law for over 35 years, Linda Lea is the first family law specialist to receive the honor. She is a past president of the prestigious American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and is also a diplomate of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers and is a certified family law trial attorney by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

She has served twice in the South Dakota State Legislature and is a steadfast advocate for women, especially in the area of domestic violence and working to establish and maintain rights for women who need legal protection and services. She has significantly increased the awareness and education of the general public and the media on legal issues affecting women. She has served on a number of boards and in advisory capacities for organizations assisting women, children and families, including the South Dakota Coalition for Children, South Dakota Voices for Children, South Dakota Advocacy Network for Women, AAUW, Zonta, the West River Mental Health

Board, Black Hills Legal Services, and the Black Hills Regional Food Bank.

Ms. Viken is well known for her presentations, advocacy, insight, and work in developing laws, guidelines, and policies governing custody, child support, alimony, divorce, visitation, and protection.

I wish to recognize and congratulate Linda Lea Viken on her latest and well-deserved recognition as South Dakota Trial Lawyer of the Year.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB KERR

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, Rhode Islanders have opinions. Life in Rhode Island is a conversation, and in Rhode Island's ongoing public conversation about who we are as a community and as a nation, a thoughtful voice is suddenly missing. Bob Kerr, the long time metro columnist for the Providence Journal, has been let go from the paper.

Bob wrote for Rhode Island's largest paper for 43 years. He spent that time seeking out the people and the stories that made up the fabric of our State and told those stories with empathy, humor, and blunt honesty. One of his fellow ProJo alumni described him as "the Providence Journal's eloquent everyman."

When then-executive editor Joel Rawson first asked Bob to write a column, he had one simple instruction: "I want to hear Rhode Island talking." And that is just what Bob gave us, 3 mornings a week for more than 20 years.

Bob Kerr told the story of Rhode Island through the eyes of Rhode Islanders. He found people whose voices were not heard and gave them a giant microphone. He wrote about neighbors. He wrote about poor people. He wrote about musicians. He wrote about people looking for jobs and the people helping them find jobs. He even wrote about politicians. He wrote a lot about veterans. Bob served his country as a marine in Vietnam, and he paid close attention to the way we treat our servicemembers. He reminded us to keep fighting for those who fought for us.

Like an adopted conscience, Bob also kept us honest. One of his most popular features was the "Clemency Coach," an imaginary broken-down bus with duct-taped seats and stuck windows that Bob cooked up to, as he put it, "give people who have done publicly embarrassing things the time to get away and consider ways to make everything OK again."

"It is a bus bound for nowhere in particular."

Once a season, Bob would roll out the latest Clemency Coach passenger list, a who's-who of people whose behavior warranted a slap on the wrist or worse. Bob called out public figures and private citizens alike, local notables and national celebrities. I myself was dispatched on the summer run of the Clemency Coach a year or two ago for putting my foot in my mouth here in the Senate.